

GIs Trade Raid Secrets for Dope

By Jack Anderson

As thoughtlessly as Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of pottage, young GIs have sold out their country for a sack of marijuana or a few caps of heroin.

In return for the drugs, GIs have given information that has enabled the enemy to prepare for U.S. ground attacks and to hustle trucks off the Ho Chi Minh trails before air strikes. Green Beret counter-insurgency plans have also become as available to the Vietcong as Saigon street newspapers.

The dismaying story is spelled out in Army intelligence reports made available to us. The reports allege, for example, that a buxom Okinawan bar girl named Michiko has been regularly swapping \$10 worth of grass for the exact hour that U.S. bombers take off for raids in Indochina.

Unless she has been put out of business in recent weeks, she is still supplying her bosses with the information, which is flashed to the Reds by clandestine radio.

Michiko and other painted ladies on Okinawa's busy BC street, called "Bring Cash" street by GIs, operate out of the Tokyo Club and Kentucky Club. The exchange of dope for secrets is also going on in

the dingy bars of South Vietnam and, probably, Thailand.

In Okinawa, this back-alley espionage has been traced to servicemen in key positions, including some who handle codes and communications at the super-secret Torii Station. The movements of the First Special Forces and Third Marine Division have also been better known to Michiko than to the average enlisted man in these units.

Often, the information is leaked by young servicemen who don't realize the gravity of their indiscretion. For unsophisticated GIs, treated decently by attractive women, are easy marks. The drugs are merely an added inducement.

The Criminal Investigation Division reports also charge that GI militants and hustlers swap secrets for hard drugs. They are willing to betray their country in some cases, out of hostility, in other cases, for the profits that can be made from resale of high-grade heroin.

Why hasn't the U.S. acted? Our sources say the military brass would rather live with the leaks than suffer the humiliation of public trials, publicizing how widespread the exchange of secrets for drugs has become. In Okinawa, the espionage apparatus would also stir up ugly demonstrations against the trials.

Ted Kennedy's defeat as

Senate Democratic Whip stunned President Nixon, who had thought Kennedy was the real power on the Democratic side of the Senate.

This has been the report of his legislative aides, who had advised him that Montana's Mike Mansfield, the gentle Senate Majority Leader, had given way to the vigorous Kennedy. We have seen the confidential transcripts of White House meetings where Bryce Harlow, former chief White House lobbyist, reported last year to the President that Kennedy was running the Senate Democratic Policy Committee.

Despite all the disavowals, meanwhile, Kennedy's sights are still on the White House. Intimates say the only reason he remains in politics is to finish the work his slain brothers started.

He believes another fanatic is lurking somewhere in the shadows, say intimates, waiting to assassinate the last of the Kennedy brothers. The only way he can save himself, in his view, is to abandon politics and keep out of the spotlight. His friends consider his staying in politics an act of physical courage and a measure of his determination to pick up the fallen Kennedy standard.

Footnote: Some senators tried to persuade Hawaii's popular Senator Dan Inouye

to challenge Kennedy for the whip's job. They took a quiet poll, which showed Inouye could easily have defeated Kennedy. Inouye decided, however, he didn't want the job.

Washington Whirl

Seniority Rule—Irascible, 74-year-old House Interior Chairman Wayne Aspinall high-handedly runs his committee for the benefit of the oil, mining, cattle and timber barons. So contemptuous is he of fellow committee members that, without consulting them, he sent a thundering demand to the White House in the name of the committee to roll back the modest fee increases on federal grazing land. The Nixon administration wants to raise the fee to about 65 cents, still far below the \$3.50 charged for the same rights by some private landowners. Aspinall presumptuously told President Nixon, in a Jan. 5 letter, that his committee looked upon the fee proposals with "great dismay and quite a bit of apprehension."

Actually, several members favor the increases. Yet Aspinall's temper is so fiery and his power so great that not a man on the committee has risen to challenge him. The episode is another screaming argument for abolishing the seniority system.